LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

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Prepared in accordance with Sec. 14 of the order of the Local Government Board, dated 23rd March, 1891, Regulating the Duties of Medical Officers of Health.

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LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1905.

I.—Population, Births and Deaths.

Population.—The Population and the number of Inhabited Houses at each Census from 1871 to 1901 were as follows:

Census Year.	Population.	Inhabited Houses.
1871.	2455.	499.
1881.	3533.	668.
1891.	4305.	779.
1901.	4694.	907.

The population of the District in the middle of the year under review may be estimated at 5,000, taking into account the rate of increase during the last intercensal period, the natural increase, or excess of births over deaths, and the number of houses that have been erected since the last Census.

Births.—The *Births* registered in the District during the year were 129 in number, representing a *Birth-rate* of 25·8 per thousand of the estimated population, as against an average rate of 22·6 per thousand for the preceding ten years, and a rate of 27·2 for England and Wales for the year. Four of the births were illegitimate, and two illegitimate births, belonging to Leatherhead, occurred in the Epsom Infirmary.

Deaths.—During the year there were registered in the District 60 *Deaths*, of which three occurred in the Cottage Hospital; in estimating the death-rate, the deaths in this Institution of two persons, belonging to Ashtead and Mickleham, have to be deducted from the total deaths, and the deaths in the Epsom Infirmary and the Brookwood Asylum of seven persons belonging to this District have to be added, leaving 65 nett deaths. This number represents a *Death-rate* of 13·0 per thousand of the estimated population, as against an average rate of 12·8 for the previous ten years, and a rate of 15·2 for the year for England and Wales.

The deaths of males were 40 in number, and of females were 25.

Seven deaths were attributed to *Phthisis*, 4 to *Other Tubercular Diseases*, 8 to *Bronchitis* and *Pneumonia*, 7 to *Cancer*, 4 to *Alcoholism*, and 7 to *Old Age*.

The deaths from Cancer in each of the five years 1901 to 1905 were 11, 7, 3, 3, and 7 respectively, representing an average Annual Death-rate of 1·29 per thousand of the population. The distribution of the 31 deaths, according to age and sex were as follows: —

	25.	35.	45.	55.	65.	75.	85.	All ages.
Male ...	1	1	4	0	5	0	1	12
Female ...	1	3	5	6	1	3	0	19

Infant Mortality.—The deaths, during the year, of *Infants under one year*, were 12 in number, and were at the rate of 93 per thousand births registered, as against an average rate of 112 for the previous ten years. Ten of the infants were male and two were female.

The causes of death, classified according to the ages of the infants in weeks and months, will be found in the new Table, issued by the Local Government Board, on page 10.

The District Council Authorised me to obtain from the Registrar of Births and Deaths a full copy of the certificates of births registered in each week. I was thereby enabled to distribute in appropriate cases 97 copies of a card, supplied by the Surrey County Council, upon the Feeding and Care of Infants.

The Zymotic Death-Rate for the year was 0·4 per thousand of the population.

II.—Infectious Diseases.

Small Pox. No case was notified.

Scarlet Fever. Eleven cases were notified in 8 houses, and 10 of the patients were removed to Cuddington Isolation Hospital. Three of the children, who failed early in the year, attended a private school, and four of the cases occurred in two cottages on the border of the district among children attending Mickleham School.

Diphtheria. Nine cases were notified in April, May, and June at the St. John's Foundation Schools, four cases occurred in two cottages in December, and one isolated case in February. A child, aged 3 years, who died on the third day of the illness, was too ill for removal; the other four patients, in private houses, and a servant at the St. John's Schools, were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The All Saints Infants' School was closed by the Managers a week before the Christmas holidays upon the occurrence of the four cases above mentioned.

Enteric Fever. A boy, aged 8 years, was reported to be suffering from this disease in March, but an examination for the Widal reaction gave a negative result.

Measles caused no death.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the summer, but no fatal cases occurred. The Fairfield Infants' School was closed in July to check the spread of the disease.

Diarrhœa caused the death of a child aged 7 months, in August.

Two cases of Erysipelas were notified.

No case of Puerperal Fever, Continued Fever, or Membranous Croup was reported.

Tubercular Diseases. The deaths from *Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Phthisis or Consumption)* were 7 in number, and were at the rate of 1·4 per thousand of the population, as against an average rate of 1·2 for the previous ten years. Three deaths were due to *Tubercular Meningitis* and one to *Tabes Mesenterica.*

Six specimens from patients suspected to be suffering from Phthisis were examined at the Lister Institute, at the expense of the Council, and the Tubercle Bacillus was found to be present in two of them.

Rooms, which had been occupied by phthisical patients, were fumigated by the Sanitary Inspector.

Bacteriological Examinations. Examinations of nine specimens for the presence of the Bacillus Diphtheriæ, with five positive results, of six specimens for the Tubercle Bacillus, with two positive results, and of two for the Widal reaction, with negative results, were made at the Lister Institute on behalf of the District Council.

Other Preventive Measures. After each case of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, the rooms were fumigated or sprayed by the Inspector, walls were stripped and cleansed by the owners, and all articles likely to retain infection were removed and stoved in the Washington Lyons Disinfector at the Hospital. The Council purchased a spraying apparatus early in the year for the disinfecting of large rooms, such as school-rooms, and for general use. The number of patients removed to the Joint Hospital for treatment, from each of the four districts for which it provides accommodation is shewn in the following table:—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Total in 1905	Total in 1904	Total in 1903	Total in 1902
Carshalton Urban	3	2	1	6	14	18	19
Epsom Rural	32	14	4	50	43	45	132
Leatherhead Urban ...	10	5	—	15	25	5	5
Sutton Urban	35	12	—	47	38	34	29

I paid several visits to Schools in connection with cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and of Whooping Cough and other non-notifiable diseases.

III.—Summary of other Proceedings, which were taken during the year, under the Public Health Acts, &c.

Inspections and Nuisances. I made an inspection and reported to the Council upon a group of cottages in the Fairfield, which were in a bad state of repair and in a dirty condition, and I also made inspections in River Lane, Gravel Hill, and other parts of the district. The various defects which I discovered were remedied, with the exception of the paving of yards, which was deferred until the spring. A cottage in Kingston Road, which I had represented to be unfit for human habitation in the previous year, was closed by the owner upon receipt of notice from the Council.

Owing to the resignation of Mr. Salkield in October, upon his appointment as Engineer to the City of Delhi, I am unable to give the usual tabulated report of the work of the Sanitary Inspector, but I have obtained the following incomplete figures from one of his books :—

Number of complaints received	4
Number of notices served	14
Number of flushing apparatus provided to W.C.'s	5
Number of defective drains relaid	3
Number of choked drains unstopped	11
Number of overflowing cesspools emptied and drains connected with sewers	6
Number of dilapidated and damp cottages repaired	6
Number of offensive accumulations removed	4

Galvanised-iron ashbins were also provided to a number of houses, and damp yards were paved.

A gentleman, living in the neighbourhood, is erecting a number of cottages in order to provide house accommodation for the working classes at a moderate rental.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops. There are three cowkeepers and five dairymen and purveyors of milk upon the Register. At one of the farms a new brick cowshed, complying in every way with the Model Regulations, was built to replace an old shed, upon which I commented in my last Report, and water was laid on from the mains of the Company. The sheds and dairies were generally kept in a satisfactory condition, but a milkshop which I visited in December required cleansing; this had not been done before the end of the year.

Common Lodging Houses. I visited the one Registered Common Lodging House and found it to be kept according to the requirements of the Bye-laws.

Slaughter Houses. The Slaughter Houses on the Register are four in number, and are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Scavenging. House refuse was removed weekly by the Council's Staff, under the supervision of the Surveyor.

Works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. The Surveyor carried out a scheme for the interception of an old sewer, which discharged into the River Mole, but the Thames Conservancy Board informed the Council that they did not consider it satisfactory, on the ground that the sewer was still liable to overflow into the river at times of heavy rain.

The Gas Company applied to the Council for permission to discharge the waste-liquor from their Sulphate of Ammonia plant into the sewers, but the Council refused the application after they had received a report from the Surveyor upon the result of his enquiries with regard to similar applications in other towns.

Mortuary. The Surveyor prepared plans for the erection of a Mortuary, but no action had been taken by the end of the year.

Water Supply. A sample of water taken from one of the mains of the Leatherhead Water Company and examined by me gave satisfactory results, and examinations made on behalf of the Company shewed that the water maintained its high quality. I also examined two samples from a well supplying some cottages in the Fairfield, but on neither occasion could I pronounce it to be unfit for domestic use.

IV.—Factories and Workshops.

A tabulated Report upon the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, is now required by the Home Office. The Report should include the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, but I have been unable to find any notes made upon the subject by the late Inspector, Mr. Salkield, who resigned office in October, and the figures relate only to inspections which I carried out myself.

Eighteen persons are employed in a Laundry, the same number at a Brewery, and about ten persons in four other workshops, but the number of employees in all the other establishments is very small.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, is in force in the district. I made an inspection as to the sanitary conveniences provided at each of the factories, and found them sufficient in each case for the number of persons employed. Flushing apparatus was provided for an insanitary hand-flushed water-closet at one factory. The sanitary conveniences at a builder's workshop were unsatisfactory, but plans for the reconstruction of the workshop and for the provision of two water-closets were submitted to the Council in December.

An outbuilding used as an ironing and sorting-room at a laundry, was repaired and paved, and a window was provided to give efficient light and ventilation, under my directions. Another small workshop in Bridge Street was rebuilt and enlarged.

I inspected all the bakehouses, and found them to comply with the special requirements of the Act. Repairs were carried out at one bakehouse to prevent dampness. There is no underground bakehouse in the district.

I gave notice to H.M. Inspector of Factories that I had found a boy at work in a bakehouse, in which no Abstract of the Act was exhibited. The Abstract had been obtained on the occasion of my next visit.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries.)	3	1	—
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries.)	26	2	—
Workplaces	—	—	—
Homeworkers' Premises	1	—	—
Total	30	3	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	—	—		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding	—	—		
Want of drainage of floors	—	—		
Other nuisances	—	—		
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	—	—		
Sanitary accommodation { unsuitable or defective...	2	1		
Sanitary accommodation { not separate for sexes ...	—	—		
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :— ...	—	—		
Total	3	2		

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	1
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)	—
Homework :—Outworkers	1
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—	
Workshop Bakehouses	6
„ Laundries	1
Dressmakers	5
Other Workshops	18
Total Number of Workshops on the Register... ...	30

J. WILLIAMSON, M.D.

The Limes,
Epsom,
February, 1906.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1905, and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents register'd in District.	Deaths of Resid'nts register'd beyond District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
				Under 1 year.		At all ages.						
		Number.	Rate. *	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate. *				Number.	Rate. *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	4470	104	23·3	7	67	47	10·5			4	51	11·4
1896	4510	81	18·0	12	148	43	9·5			6	49	10·9
1897	4550	101	22·2	9	89	41	9·0			10	51	11·2
1898	4590	101	22 0	18	178	59	12·8			2	61	13·2
1899	4630	116	25 0	21	181	61	13·2			10	71	15·3
1900	4670	103	22·0	11	107	60	12·8			13	73	15·6
1901	4710	94	20·0	8	85	61	13·0	1		9	70	14·9
1902	4750	119	25·0	16	134	54	11·4	1		10	64	13·5
1903	4800	107	22·3	6	56	36	7·5			4	40	8·3
1904	4850	123	25·4	9	73	57	11·7	2		9	65	13 4
Averages for years 1895-1904.	4650	105	22·6	12	112	52	11·2			8	60	12·8
1905.	5000	129	25·8	12	93	60	12·0	3	2	7	65	13·0

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths included in Column 7 of the table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10, and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The public Institution in the District is the Cottage Hospital.

Puplic Institutions outside the District, into which Leatherhead Residents are received, are the Epsom Workhouse, the Cuddington Joint Isolation Hospital and the Brookwood Asylum.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water). 3481

Total population at all ages.....4,694
Number of inhabited houses..... 907
Average number of persons per house... 5·2
At Census of 1901.

TABLE 2.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Localities.		No. of Cases removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.									
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwds.	St. John's Schools.	Rest of District.	St John's Schools.	Rest of District.
Small-pox...											
Cholera											
Diphtheria	14	—	3	4	6	1	—	9	5	1	4
Membranous Croup ...											
Erysipelas...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—
Scarlet fever	11	—	1	10	—	—	—	—	11	—	10
Typhus fever											
Enteric fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Relapsing fever											
Continued fever											
Puerperal fever											
Totals	28	—	4	15	7	1	1	9	19	1	14

Note.—The Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the district, is the Joint Isolation Hospital on Cuddington Downs, in the Epsom Rural District.

TABLE 3.

Shewing the number of Deaths from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases. and from Phthisis, and the number of Cases notified, in private houses, in each of the years, 1893—1905.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa.	7 Zymotic Diseases.	Phthisis.
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.	Deaths.
1893	8		5	2	3		3	7		12	3
1894	1		3		3	1	1	2		4	3
1895	3		9	3						3	7
1896	19	1	12	1	3		2		2	6	3
1897	42	1	6	1	3	1			5	8	5
1898	4		2		2			1	5	6	6
1899	19		7	3	3		1	8	2	14	5
1900	60	1	5		5				2	3	11
1901	12	1	2	1	7	1			2	5	6
1902	3	1	3		2		1	8	1	11	5
1903	7						1	1	1	3	2
1904	26		1		1						5
1905	11		5	1	1				1	2	7

One case of Small Pox was notified in 1904.

TABLE 4.

Causes of, and Ages at, Deaths during Year 1905.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to the District at subjoined Ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small Pox								
Measles								
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping-cough								
Diphtheria and membranous croup	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
Fever { Enteric								
Fever { Other continued ...								
Epidemic Influenza								
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis								
Puerperal Fever								
Erysipelas								
Other Septic Diseases ...								
Phthisis	7	—	—	—	3	4	—	—
Other Tubercular Disease ...	4	2	1	—	—	1	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	7	—	—	—	—	3	4	—
Bronchitis	4	—	1	—	—	1	2	1
Pnuemonia	4	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Respiratory organs								
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ...	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Venereal Diseases								
Premature Birth	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases & Accidents of Parturition								
Heart Diseases	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Accidents	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Suicides	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
All Other Causes	28	6	1	—	—	5	16	1
All Causes	65	12	5	—	3	18	27	3

TABLE 5.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Common Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa, all forms ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Wasting Diseases: Premature Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wasting Diseases: Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Rickets...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other Causes					—												—
All Causes: Certified ...	1	—	1	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	12

Population.
Estimated to middle of 1905.

5,000.

Births in the year { legitimate 125
illegitimate.... 4

Deaths from **all Causes at all Ages** 65

There were no uncertified deaths.